



CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

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ICOC APPOINTS MEMBERS TO SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS WORKING GROUP

EMERYVILLE, CALIF.— The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) announced today the appointment by the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) of 18 of the 19 individuals who will serve on its Scientific and Medical Accountability Standards Working Group (Standards Working Group). The members were recommended by a sub-committee of the ICOC which met for the first time approximately three months ago. They were appointed by a unanimous vote during the May 6 ICOC meeting in Fresno.

The Standards Working Group makes recommendations to the ICOC on scientific, medical and ethical standards on stem cell research, including issues of standards compliance and modification. As mandated by the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act, the committee is composed of nine scientists and clinicians. Eight of the nine required clinicians/scientists have been appointed, in addition to the four medical ethicists, five patient advocates from the ICOC, and the Chair of the ICOC. Members of the Standards Working Group were chosen from over 50 applicants, based on their expertise in biomedical ethics related to stem cell research and clinical or lab-based experience administering protocols related to stem cell research. For more information on the selection process, please visit: http://www.cirm.ca.gov/working_group/standards.asp.

"This is a truly distinguished group," said Zach Hall, CIRM Interim President. "They will advise us to insure that research sponsored by CIRM is carried out according to the highest medical and ethical standards."

The clinicians and scientists of the Standards Working Group Members of the Standards Working Group have agreed to abide the conflict of interest policies of the CIRM. Members will be compensated on a per diem basis. For more information on the process and selection criteria please visit: <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/conflict/pdf/standards.pdf>.

A full list of the appointed members is given below.

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Standards Working Group

R. Alta Charo received a J.D. as a Stone Scholar from Columbia University School of Law in 1982. She has been Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development University of Wisconsin Law School since 2002 and has served as a professor of Law and Bioethics, with a joint appointment at the Law and Medical Schools of the University of Wisconsin since 1989. She has written extensively on issues relating to biomedical ethics including a chapter entitled “Ethical Issues in Embryo Research.” Professor Charo has served as a member of the Human Subjects Committee at the Center for Health Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In addition, she has served as a member of the U.S. National Bioethics Advisory Commission from 1996 to 2001. Most recently Professor Charo served on the Committee on Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research for the National Academy of Sciences, which produced their guidelines in April 2005.

Jose Cibelli received a Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology from the University of Massachusetts in 1998. He also received a D.V.M. from the University of La Plata, Argentina School of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. Dr. Cibelli was a scientist at Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, MA from 1997 to 2002 where he rose to the level of Vice President of Research. Dr. Cibelli, together with his colleagues, was responsible for the generation of the world’s first transgenic cloned calves, the first embryonic stem cells by nuclear transfer and the first embryonic stem cells by parthenogenesis in primates. He is the co-author of a paper entitled “The Ethical Validity of Using Nuclear Transfer in Human Transplantation.”

Kevin Eggan received his Ph.D. in Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in February of 2003. He is currently a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows at Harvard University, where he will begin a position as an Assistant Professor of Biology in the fall of 2005. Dr Eggan has devoted the last 7 years to performing stem cell research. He is currently leading a research group that is investigating the mechanisms regulating epigenetic reprogramming after somatic cell nuclear transfer and using nuclear transfer techniques to derive disease specific human embryonic stem cell lines from diabetic and Parkinson’s patients. His accomplishments include cloning mice from olfactory sensory neurons, deriving embryonic germ cells and male gametes from embryonic stem cells, and characterizing the abnormalities that sometimes arise as a result of nuclear transfer.

Ann Kiessling received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry/Biophysics from Oregon State University in 1971 and has been an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School since 1985. Professor Kiessling started the first In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) laboratory in Oregon and was recruited to Harvard to head up an IVF laboratory at Brigham and Women’s Hospital where she continues to research early embryo development and semen transmission of HIV. Professor Kiessling made several discoveries about early embryo development and is developing reliable systems for parthenogenetic activation of mammalian eggs, investigating the role of endogenous reverse transcriptase in pluripotent stem cell differentiation, and developing strategies for maturing oocytes from human embryonic stem cells.

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Professor Kiessling has served on the Ethics Advisory Board of the Faulkner Centre for Reproductive Medicine on AIDS and Related Research IRBs at the National Institutes of Health and on the Ethics Advisory Board of Advanced Cell Technology.

Bob Klein (Co-Chair) is Chairman of the ICOC. As the creator and primary backer of Proposition 71, which led to the creation of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), Klein has been an instrumental figure in advocating for research and the development of cures for a variety of causes including Alzheimer's and diabetes and was honored by *Time Magazine* as one of 2005's "100 Most Influential People of the Year." He is also President of Klein Financial Corporation, a property investment banking consulting company. In addition to his real-estate work, Klein continues to remain involved in health initiatives outside of CIRM and serves on the board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Klein received a Bachelor of Arts in history and Juris Doctor from Stanford University.

Jeffrey Kordower received a Ph.D. from City University of New York in 1984. Dr. Kordower is currently Director, Section of Neurobiology in the Department of Neurological Sciences, Director of the Research Center for Brain Repair, and Jean Schweppe Armour Professor of Neurological Sciences at Rush Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Kordower has made significant contributions in the fields of gene therapy, neural transplantation, nonhuman primate models of neurodegenerative disease and experimental therapeutic strategies for Parkinson's and Huntington's disease. He made the pioneering demonstration that fetal transplants can survive in patients with Parkinson's disease. He has also demonstrated that gene delivery of a trophic factor called GDNF can prevent degeneration and restore function in nonhuman primate models of Parkinson's disease.

Sherry Lansing (Co-Chair) serves as the patient advocate for Cancer on the ICOC. Founder and current chair of the Sherry Lansing Foundation, a philanthropy organization focusing on cancer research, health and education, she was the former chair of the Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures from 1992 to 2005, where she oversaw the release of more than 200 films including Academy Award winners like "Forrest Gump," "Braveheart," and "Titanic." Her distinguished career has earned her numerous awards including the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship, the Milestone Award from the Producers Guild of America, and an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from the American Film Institute, among many others. She continues to lend her energy and talents to such advisory boards and committees as the American Red Cross Board of Governors, The Carter Center and Stop Cancer, a non-profit philanthropic group she founded in partnership with Dr. Armand Hammer. Lansing received her Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University.

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Bernard Lo received an M.D. from Stanford University School of Medicine in 1975. He has been a Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) since 1980 and Director of the Program in Medical Ethics at UCSF since 1989. Professor Lo has served as the chair of the Chancellor's Campus Advisory Committee on Ethical Issues in Oocyte, Embryo, and Stem Cell Research since 2003. Professor Lo has written extensively on issues relating to biomedical ethics including the article "Informed Consent in Human Oocyte, Embryo, and Embryonic Stem Cell Research." In addition, professor Lo has served as National Program Director of the Greenwall Faculty Scholars in Bioethics Program since 2001 and been a member of the Institute of Medicine Council since 2002.

Kenneth Olden received a Ph.D. in Cell Biology/Biochemistry from Temple University in 1970. Dr. Olden has made significant contributions to our understanding of the manufacture, modification and secretion of extracellular matrix proteins. More recently, he has begun to study understand the underlying processes of cell growth and death in hematopoietic stem cells. The ability to alter the growth characteristics of such stem cells could have multiple applications in the areas of chemotherapy and bone marrow transplantation. Dr. Olden has served as the Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the National Institutes of Health and as Director of the National Toxicology Program, Research Triangle Park, NC since 1991. Dr. Olden is the first African-American to become Director of one of the 18 Institutes of the National Institutes of Health in the history of the agency.

Theodore Peters received a Masters in Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, in Columbus, Ohio in 1967 and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1973. He has served as a professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union, since 1978. Professor Peters has written extensively on issues relating to biomedical ethics including the article entitled "Theological Support of Stem Cell Research" and has edited books including *Genetics: Issues of Social Justice*. Professor Peters also has experience administering ethical safeguards during the clinical trial process during his four-year tenure on the Ethics Advisory Board (EAB) of the Geron Corporation.

Phyllis Preciado, M.D., is the patient advocate for Type II Diabetes on the ICOC. Dr. Preciado has received praise for her design, development and implementation of a multidisciplinary, multicultural community-based diabetes management program. She created "ESTAR" (Educating Students To Actively Reach) as a program to mentor pre-health students from underserved communities in Fresno and to encouraging pre-medical minority students to pursue careers in health. Dr. Preciado received her medical degree from the University of California, Irvine College of Medicine and completed an Internal Medicine-Primary Care Residency Program at the Alameda County Medical Center.

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Francisco Prieto, M.D., is the patient advocate for Type I Diabetes on the ICOC. He is president of the Sacramento-Sierra chapter of the American Diabetes Association, and is also a practicing family physician with the Sutter Medical Group in Elk Grove. He received a bachelor's degree from University of Illinois-Chicago and his medical degree from the University of Minnesota.

Harriet Rabb (Co-Chair) received a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1966. She was a member of the faculty of Columbia Law School from 1971 to 1993 where she served as Vice Dean and George M. Jaffin Professor of Law and Social Responsibility. Ms. Rabb designed and directed the School's ethics course required for all law students. In 1993, she was appointed by President Clinton to serve as General Counsel to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she led the Department's legal efforts on health policy issues including stem cell research, tobacco, assisted reproductive technology, tissue and organ allocation, fetal tissue and human embryo research, informed consent, and vaccine issues until 2001. In her current position as Vice President and General Counsel at Rockefeller University, she has served as Chair of the University's Stem Cell Task Force and as an Ex-Officio member of the President's Human Stem Cell Bioethics Group. At the Rockefeller, she provides support for research involving human participant data registries and clinical trials in the University Hospital. Ms. Rabb is a Member of the Board of the Hastings Center.

Janet D. Rowley received an M.D. from the University of Chicago in 1948. She joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in 1962 and is currently the Blum-Riese Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine, Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, and Human Genetics, at the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago. Dr. Rowley is internationally renowned for her studies of chromosome abnormalities in human leukemia and lymphoma. Her research has expanded from the chromosomal causes of cancer to include the gene expression and differentiation of hematopoietic stem cells. She is the recipient of the National Medal of Science and the Albert Lasker Clinical Medicine Research Prize, the most distinguished American honor for clinical medical research. In addition to her scientific accomplishments, Dr. Rowley is a member of The President's Council on Bioethics.

Jeff Sheehy serves as the patient advocate for HIV/AIDS on the ICOC. Sheehy worked in collaboration with California State Senator Carole Migden on the Survive AIDS Initiative to raise funds for organ transplants for people with HIV, leading to a NIH-funded protocol to perform solid organ transplants in people with HIV at sites across the country. In 1996, he and two colleagues conceived, drafted and lobbied San Francisco's historic Equal Benefits Ordinance, which requires companies contracting with the city to provide domestic partner benefits. Sheehy was appointed HIV/AIDS advisor to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom in 2004 and has been deputy director for communications at the AIDS Research Institute at UCSF since 2000. He is a recipient of the Cape Crusader Award from Equality California, the HRC Leadership Award from The Human Rights Campaign, the Tomas Fabregas AIDS Hero Award. Sheehy received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin.

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Jonathon Shestack serves as the patient advocate for mental health on the ICOC. In 1995, he co-founded The Cure Autism Now Foundation (CAN) in 1995, and is now the largest non-federal funder of biological funding, with \$24 million invested in autism research. CAN funds and operates the Autism Genetic Resource Exchange, the sole open gene bank for autism and the largest collection in the world and has played an important part in setting NIMH standards on issues of broad data sharing and scientific collaboration. In 2002, Shestack was appointed as one of three public members to the NIH Internal autism coordinating committee. Shestack serves on two bio-ethic task forces, a Department of Energy group on issues of ethics and gene patenting, and the Stanford University Center on Integrating Ethics and Genetic Research. Shestack has a particular interest in mental health issues, the rights of vulnerable populations, in specifically children and the mentally ill. He actively promotes science in the public interest, scientific collaboration, research resource creation and broad data sharing. In his professional life Shestack is a movie producer currently based at Warner Brothers. He was president of production of Artisan Entertainment and Executive Vice President of Beacon Entertainment where he produced “Air Force One.” He was the production executive on “Bring It On,” “Thirteen Days,” and “Family Man.”

Robert N. Taylor received an M.D. and Ph.D. from Baylor College of Medicine in 1981. Dr. Taylor is currently Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco, but will shortly be moving to Emory University in the coming months. Dr. Taylor’s involvement with the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology, In Vitro Fertilization Program, and Center for Reproductive Sciences at UCSF gives him expertise in egg donation and early embryo matters pertinent to stem cell research. He has authored many papers on the subjects of human endometrial function and early pregnancy.

James Willerson received an M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine in 1965. Dr. Willerson is the President of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston where he holds the Edward Randall III Chair in Internal Medicine and the Alkek/Williams Distinguished Professorship. He is also the President-elect of the Texas Heart Institute. His current research interests include the use of stem cells to improve severely damaged heart tissue. Dr. Willerson and colleagues at the Texas Heart Institute now lead one of the first FDA-approved clinical trials to treat patients with end-stage heart disease using their own bone marrow-derived stem cells and his laboratory has demonstrated transdifferentiation of one type of peripheral blood cell into cardiomyocytes.

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